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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. HILL 102

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
Ernst-Walter Hillebrand

International Application No.:
PCT/EP99/05995

U.S. Serial No.: 10/049,498

International Filing Date:
August 16, 1999

U.S. Filing Date: February 19, 2002

For: PASSIVATION METHOD FOR ZINC-
NICKEL LAYERS

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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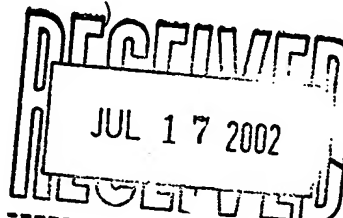
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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, as revised on February 4, 1992, 1135 OG 23-24, Applicants hereby call the Examiner's attention to documents listed on the attached form, which documents may be material to the examination of this application.

No inference should be drawn that any apparatus disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention. Also, the citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior


in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicants also respectfully reserve the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of those documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the present patent application.

The reference submitted is the English translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report for the present application.

This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, it is believed that no fee under 37 CFR 1.97(c) is required. If it is determined that a fee is required for this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50/1039.

Respectfully submitted,



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